36.(New) A multimedia system according to claim 32, further comprising an output device coupled to said output signal.

37.(New) A multimedia system according to claim 32, wherein said output device includes a video monitor.

38.(New) A multimedia system according to claim 32, wherein said output device includes a sound system.

39.(New) A multimedia system according to claim 32, further comprising at least one media device from the group comprising a TV tuner, a direct satellite receiver, a DVD player, a video tape recorder, a CD player, and a MIDI port.

REMARKS

Applicant has considered the Office Action mailed on October 1, 2002, and the references cited therewith. This amendment cancels claims 1-9 and 23-27 without prejudice, amends claims 14, 17, and 19, and adds new claims 28-39, so that claims 10-22 and 28-39 remain pending in the Application.

Claim 19 was rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Parent claim 14 employs two terms, "source" and "signal," to refer to the same thing, and then conflates them. Therefore, claim 14 is amended to speak of the "signals" from the sources in a consistent manner. Dependent claims 17 and 19 are amended to recite "signals" rather than "sources." These changes merely substitute one term for another equivalent term, and do not affect the scope of claims 14-22.

Claims 1-15 and 17 were rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. patent 6,038,614 to Chan et al. The enclosed Terminal Disclaimer overcomes this rejection.

Claims 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,945,988 to Williams et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. The Office Action does not advance any reason why these claims are shown in Williams, and does not discuss the

claims at all. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reasons for rejecting these claims.

Claims 14-22 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,650,827 to Tsumori et al.

Tsumori shows a media system having multiple input devices, some of which may produce selectable signals that the others do not. For example, a television receiver has a number of selectable channels, while a VTR does not (e.g., col. 15 lines 12-18); as another example, some video sources produce a duplex sound signal that allows one or another audio channel to be selected, while a VTR produces only a single, non-selectable audio (e.g., col. 19 lines 46-49). Tsumori notes that a conventional remote for selecting input signals allows all choices to be made for all input devices, so that a user might select a duplex sound input or a TV channel while watching a VTR video, i.e., while watching a signal from a device that does not have the selected features. Should that occur, the user may later return to a TV receiver or a duplex sound source, only to find that that source is now incorrectly set to a different signal, or (if the user did in fact intend to select a different signal from the non-selected source) that the change had not been made. Tsumori solves this problem by disallowing signal-selection changes to be made for any media device except for the currently selected device. The vehicle for this purpose is to display menus that gray out all signal-selection choices except those available on the currently selected media device.

Tsumori's device is aimed at solving a different problem, and operates in a different manner from embodiments of the present invention. The invention is aimed at matching the different characteristics of signals from various devices to each other, so that an output device can present them similarly to each other. For example, a TV receiver and a VTR having different nominal brightness levels can be set once to the same brightness, without having to readjust them every time the user switches between TV and VTR. As another example, the volume of different TV channels can be set once to different levels, and will thereafter always maintain that difference. The vehicle for achieving this goal is to maintain a set of parameters of a common *output* device for each of the *input* signals, so that a whole corresponding set of parameters can be retrieved when its associated signal is selected for presentation on the output device.

Independent claim 14 is amended to clarify the distinction from Tsumori. More

specifically, claim 14 selects one of the input signals, and retrieves a parameter that controls "said output device" but that is associated with "said one selected signal." Applicant's reading of Tsumori compels the conclusion that Tsumori's memory can store and retrieve information that solely concerns the selection of signals and capabilities of the media *input* sources—such as which duplex-audio channel is selected (e.g. col. 19 lines 52-53, col. 20 lines 5-6) whenever a duplex-audio source is selected, and which channel should be routed to the mini-viewing screen whenever the TV or satellite receiver input is selected (e.g., col. 14 lines 15-17).[1] When Tsumori describes setting a volume—the only parameter of the *output* device that he mentions—he speaks only of the user setting its level on a system-wide basis, rather than for a particular input signal or source; see, e.g., col. 13 lines 53-55 and col. 17 lines 61-64. Tsumori thus stores only input-device signal selections, and not output-device parameters, as clearly recited in claim 14.

Dependent claims 15-22 incorporate all the recitations of claim 14, and add other distinguishing features as well. For example, claim 18 receives a parameter code for modifying its value for "only a particular one of said input signals." From claim 14, this parameter is one that controls the output device (e.g., loudspeaker volume), and not the input devices (e.g., channel selection). Claim 18 stores the modified value of this output-device parameter in a table entry "corresponding to said particular one input signal," whereas Tsumori can store only parameters relating to the input devices. Claim 18 then automatically presents media from "the selected signal" from the selected *input* device in accordance with the "modified parameter value" of the *output* device. Again, Tsumori can only store and retrieve information relating to the *input* devices.

New independent claim 28 carries the themes of claim 14 to apparatus for implementing the present invention. The system of claim 28 selects and modifies input signals to produce an output signal. A table has multiple entries associated with different ones of "said input signals," such as a TV tuner, a satellite receiver, as DVD player, etc. The parameter values stored in each entry, however, are those of "said output signal," and not input-signal selections or any other information concerning input devices, as might be suggested by Tsumori. The output controller

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[1]– The remaining items stored in memory 42 appear to be permanently stored program code and menu item; e.g., col. 7 lines 6-8, col.12 lines 56-58, col. 13 lines 29-31, col. 15 lines 22-32.

of claim 28 then sets a parameter "of said output signal" in accordance with the value from the table, that is associated with the selected *input* signal. These recitations clearly distinguish Tsumori, who sets output-signal volume—the only output-signal parameter he suggests—according to a user setting for any input signal, regardless of its source device.

Claims 29-39 depend from claim 28, as introduce other features as well. For example, claim 30 specifies that keyboard input device also includes "data-entry keys for the data processor" of the system. Tsumori's remote control 60, Fig. 2, only has keys for entering system selection commands; in fact, in at least some cases wireless commands from the remote are sent directly to the input devices themselves. As another example, claim 31 has an input device that produces "a parameter modification command" for the output-signal parameter. The table stores this modified value. But whereas any volume change set by a user in Tsumori's system affects the volume for any input signal that thereafter happens to be sent to the output device, the modified value of claim 31 affects the value of the output-signal parameter "only for one of said media signals," the one associated with the table entry for that input signal. As to claims 34-35, audio volume is the only parameter of the output signal for Tsumori describes how it is set and varied. But, as noted above, volume can only be set on a system-wide basis, and cannot be set individually for different input signals as provided in claim 28.

Conclusion

For the above reasons, Applicant urges that the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests reexamination under 35 U.S.C. 132. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6971 to facilitate prosecution of this Application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0439.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this __3rd__ day of February, 2003 (Monday).

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